



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CSU Bakersfield Awarded \$986,078 Improving Teacher Quality Grant

SACRAMENTO — November 7, 2005 — California State University Bakersfield has won funding for a new project aimed at improving academic skills for all students in math and science in the Delano Joint Union High School District. Building on an earlier successful professional development effort, the university was awarded a four-year grant of \$986,078 by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in a statewide competition. Over the course of the project—titled Content Academic Language Literacy Instruction (CALLI)—60 Delano teachers will receive intensive training and site-based coaching so they can strengthen the reading, writing, and speaking skills needed by their students to understand and master science and mathematics.

The grant is part of the federal Improving Teacher Quality Program funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the latest edition of a long-standing federal program aimed at improving student achievement through professional development for teachers. Over two decades of administering the program, CPEC has awarded more than \$75 million to colleges and universities working with high-need K-12 schools throughout California. The 2005 grants focus on improving academic literacy in high schools. They also require rigorous evaluation research to demonstrate how the professional development affects student achievement.

Taking note of this requirement, CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman observed that “Being required to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement, not just on teacher behavior, is critical and supports CPEC’s overall commitment to accountability in educational programs.”

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Howard Welinsky, chairman of the Commission, says the grants play an important role in making sure every student has a highly qualified teacher. “The program has had a long-term impact on helping teachers strengthen their content knowledge and their understanding of effective teaching strategies—key elements of education reform,” he said. “CSU Bakersfield and its partner schools should be proud of the quality of their proposal and its potential for improving teaching and learning in the south San Joaquin Valley.”

More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov. For more information about the state program, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov. For information on the project described above, contact Dr. Debbie Cook-Hirai at 661-654-3129 or dhirai@csub.edu.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.